



Syracuse Violent Crime Assessment

Mayor's Office to
Reduce Gun
Violence

Lateef Johnson-Kinsey
Director

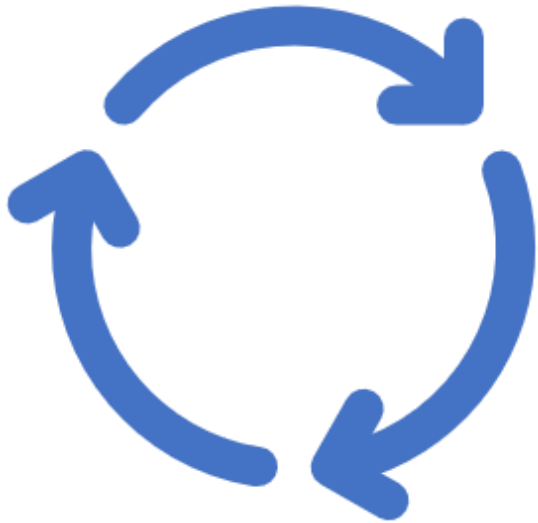
Pablo Uribe
Bloomberg Harvard Fellow

Part 1

Assessment Structure
Problem Description
Consequences and Costs

This
assessment
was
accomplished
through:

- 26 Interviews with outreach workers, city officials, law enforcement authorities, community leaders, civil society organizations' leaders, and former gang and associated individuals members.
- City and Law Enforcement databases, such as CORE, SYRCityline complaints, crime reports, SPD personnel, etc.
- Official documents.
- 25 research papers and books.
- Public information, such as news articles, opinion polls, and technical blogs.



How did we do it?

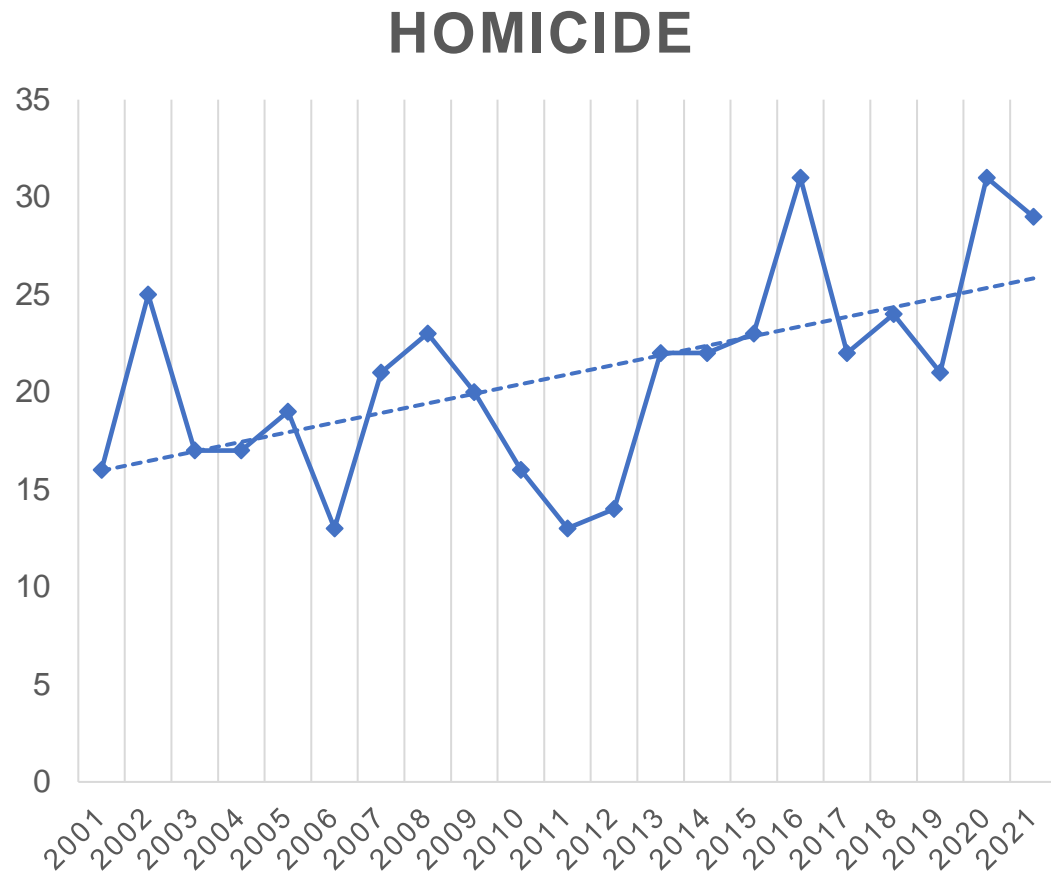
- Using all the information, we structured our analysis using the Problem Driven Iterative Adaptation (PDIA) approach.
- A step-by-step approach that helps to break down complex problems into their root causes, identify entry points, search for possible solutions, act, reflect upon what you have learned, adapt, and then act again.
- It was developed by Matt Andrews, Lant Pritchett, and Michael Woolcock (HKS faculty).
- It was designed to address complex problems in challenging contexts.

Problem Description

Problem definition:

“With 945 aggravated assaults and 29 murders in 2021 and an average of 24 murders per year in the previous decade, Syracuse is a city with high levels of violent crime and one of New York’s most violent. Its 2021 murder rate of 19.85 per 100,000 inhabitants is three times that of the United States (6.52). Despite different interventions from government agencies, and its non-profit network, the city’s average number of homicides per year rose by 31% over the last decade.”

The average number of homicides increased in the last decade

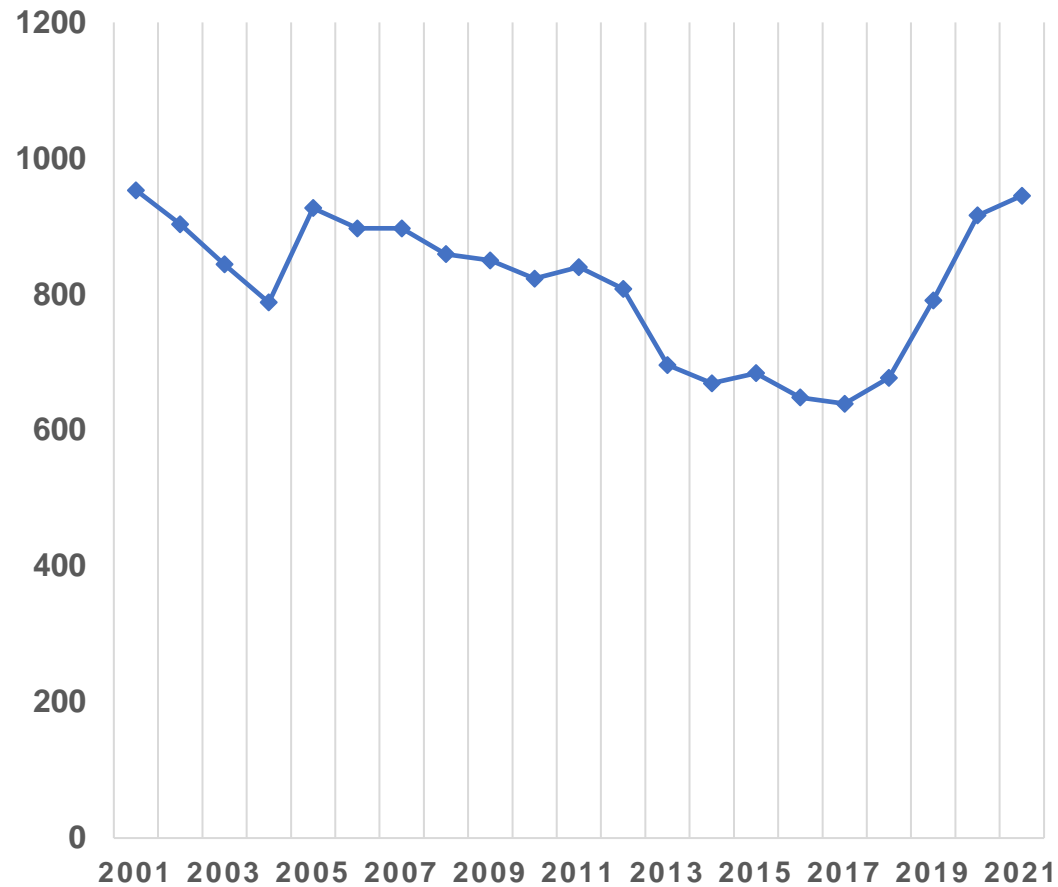


Between 2001 and 2011, the average number of homicides per year was 18.2.

Between 2012 and 2021, the average number of homicides per year was 23.9.

In the last decade, the annual yearly average increased by 31%.

Aggravated assaults grew since 2018 into high historical levels



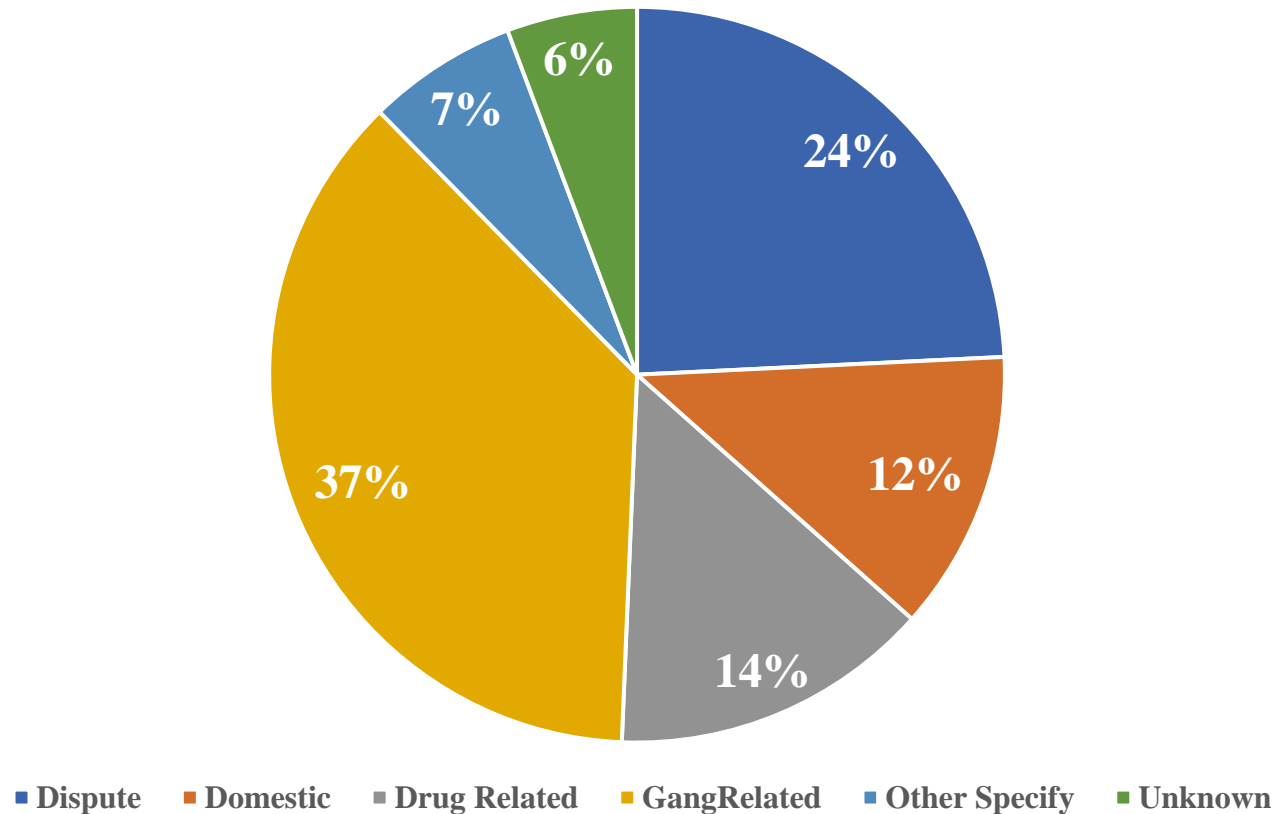
Aggravated assaults dropped from 2005 to 2017.

2005–2017

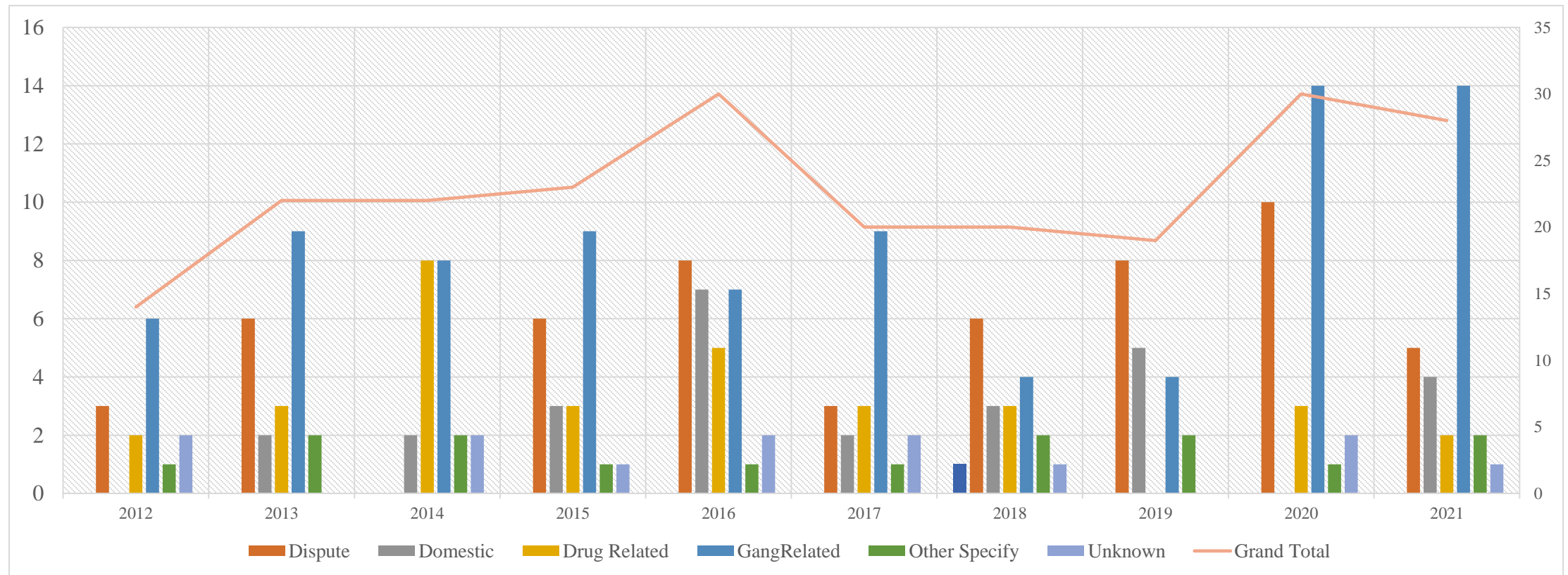
2019

Since 2019 they have risen to high historical levels in 2020 (916) and 2021 (945).

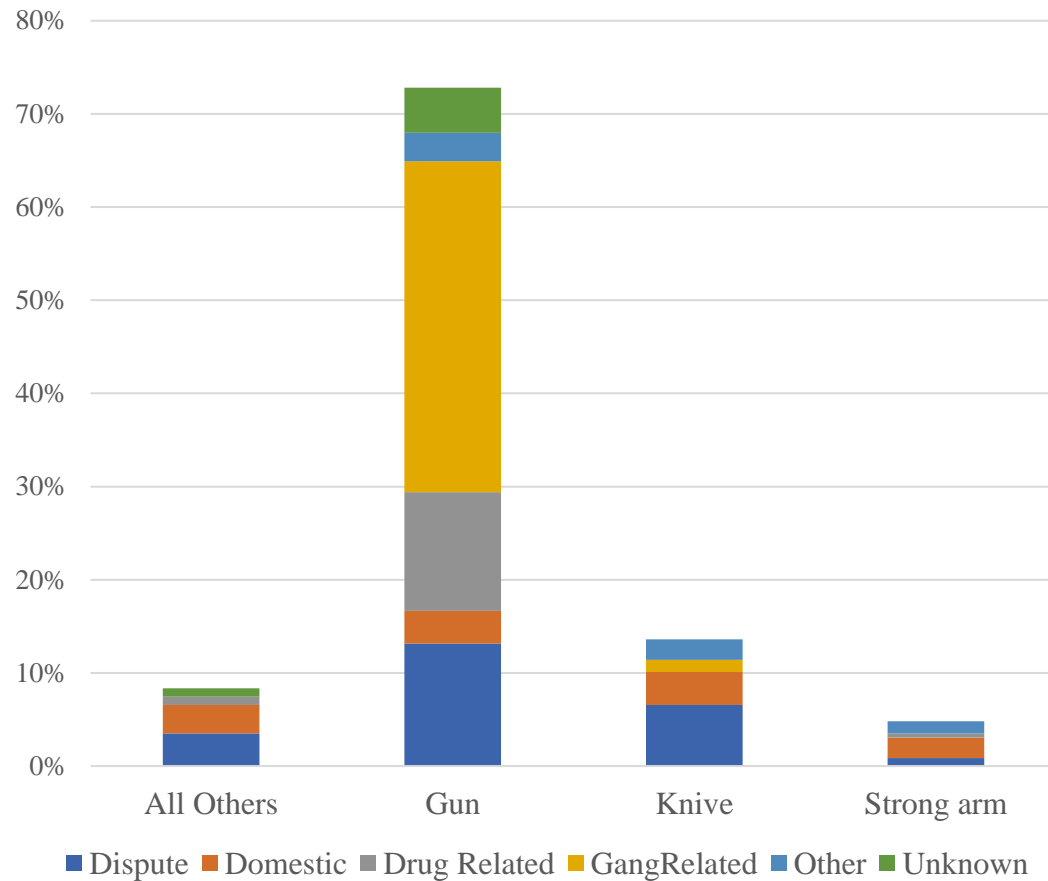
Motivations: Over the last ten years, violent crime has been driven mainly by gang and associated individuals personal disputes.



Gang and associated individuals-related homicides were the number one category in six of the last ten years, with variations



Guns are by far, the most used weapon



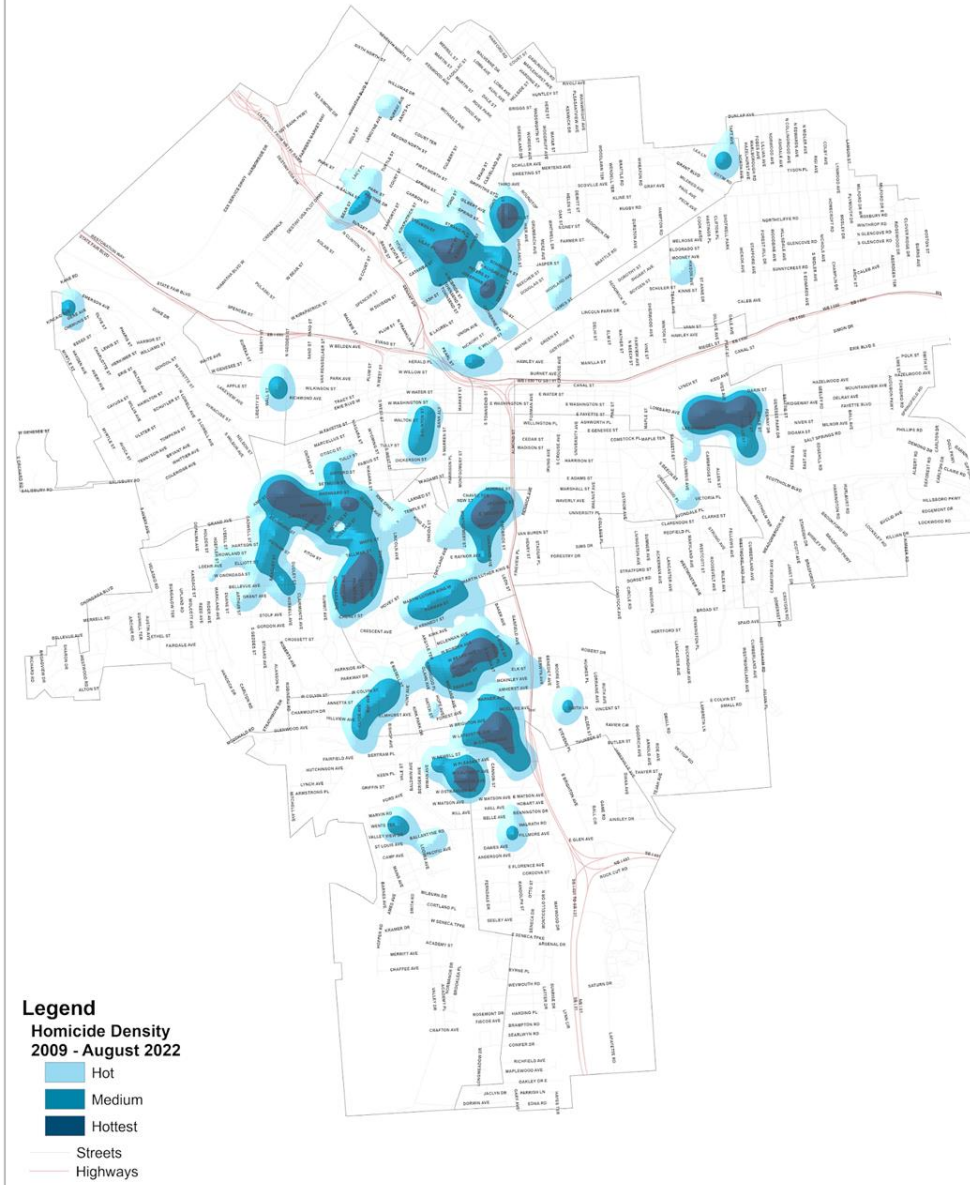
Used in 73% of last decade's homicides.

Also, in 79% of homicides in the last five years.

Almost all gang and associated individuals and drug-related homicides were committed with guns.

Disputes and DV: guns, knives, and other weapons in similar proportions.

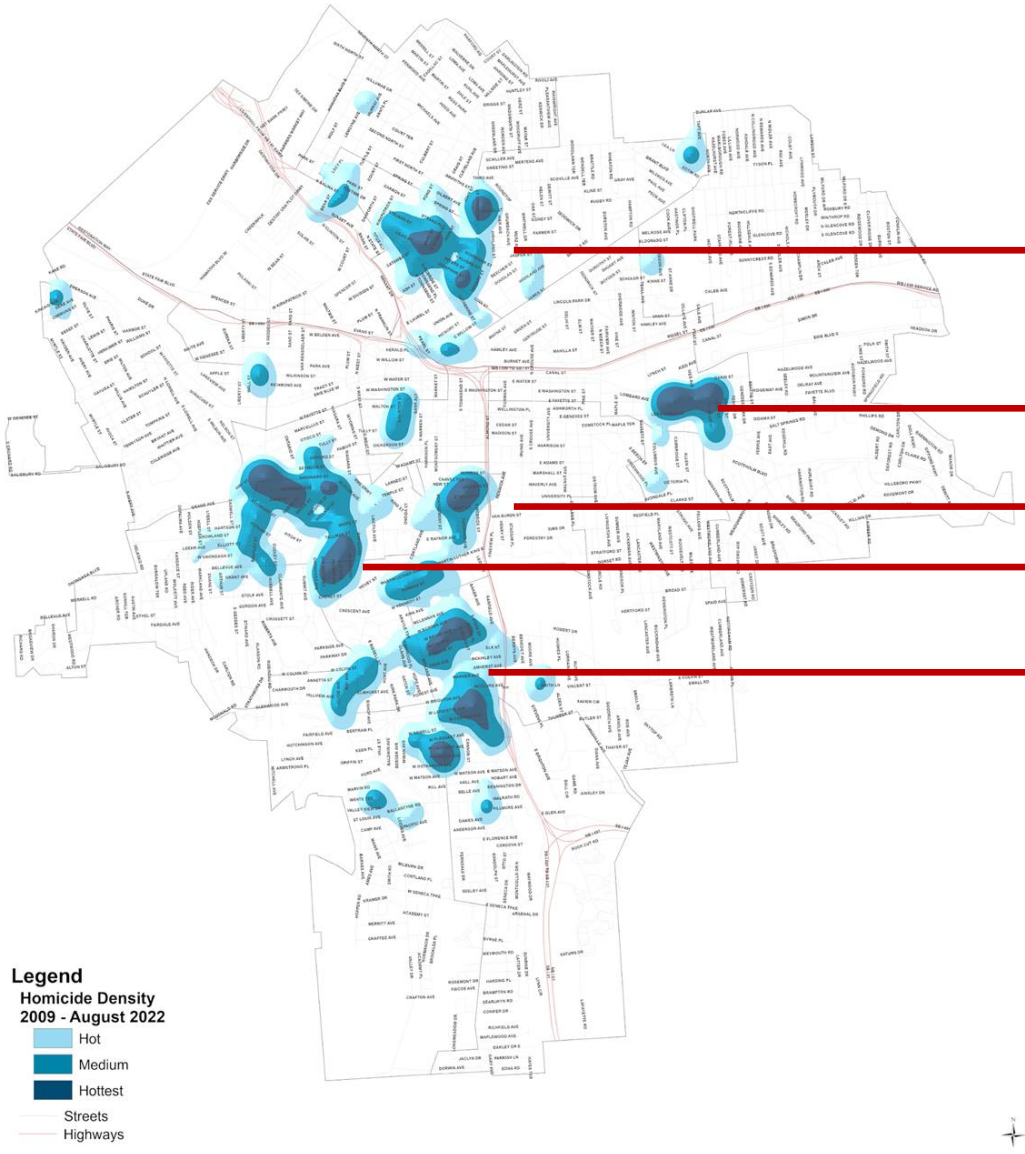
City of Syracuse Homicide Density 2009 - August 2022



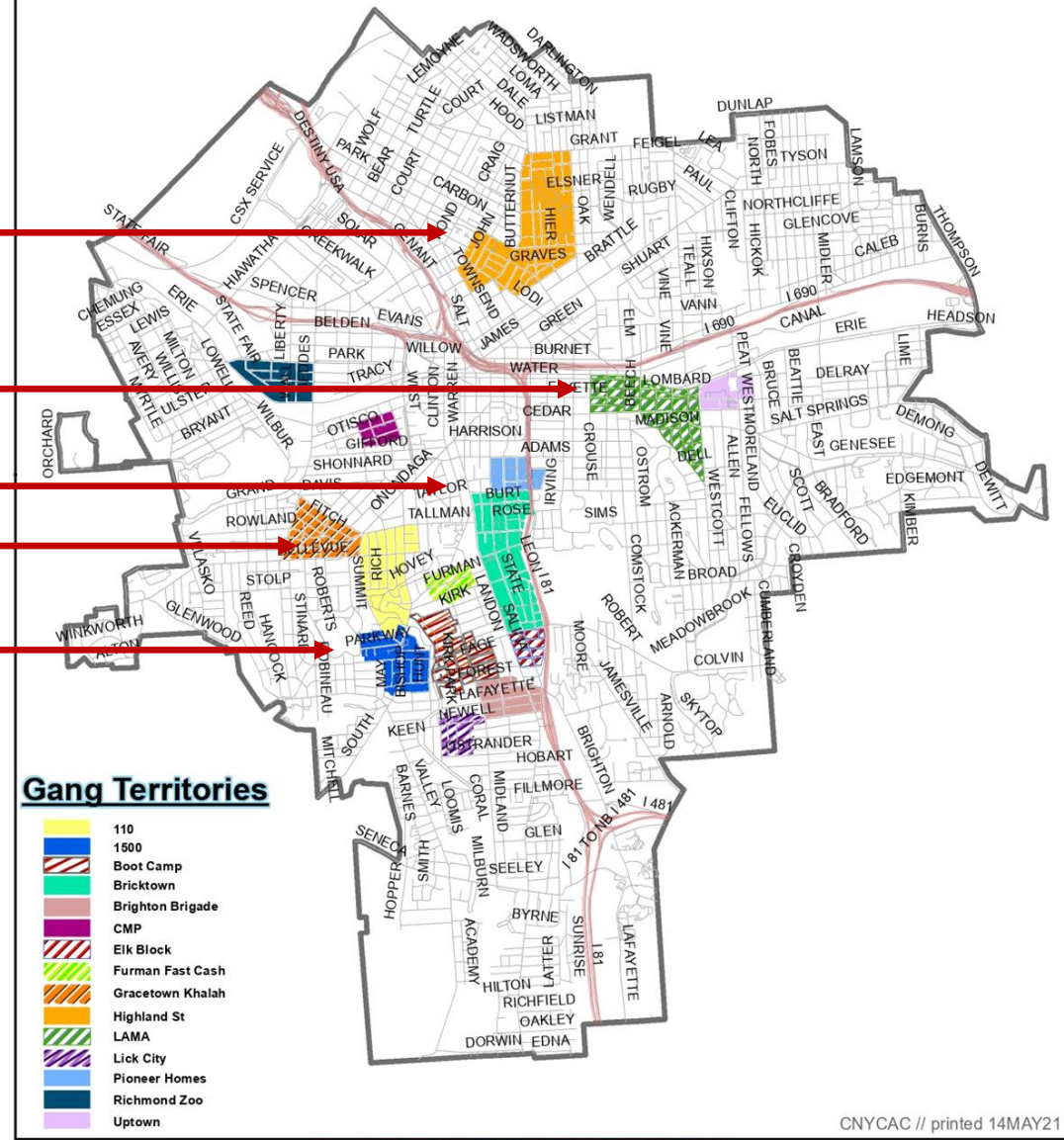
Location of Homicides

- Twelve clusters.
- Highly concentrated in 11 areas on the southwest, west, and north sides of Syracuse. One violence cluster is also on the east side, close to Westmoreland Park.
- More rental units, vacant housing, single-parent households, and a higher African-American and Hispanic population than the rest of the city.
- Also, overgrown vegetation, illegal setouts, dim street lighting, concentrated poverty, blighted properties, and low collective efficacy.

City of Syracuse Homicide Density 2009 - August 2022



Syracuse Gang Territories - 2021 Update -



The city-wide response to this issue in the last decade

- From different stakeholders: county, city, state, neighbors, community-based organizations, philanthropies, and law enforcement.
- Evidenced-based models
- The full spectrum of crime policies: Deterrence and incapacitation to outreach and social services



What has been done to solve this issue?

Intervention	What is it?	Funded by	Implemented by	Issues
TRUCE 2013 to 2016.	Focus law enforcement efforts on the city's gang and associated individuals while coupling these with social services.	US DOJ	District Attorney's Office, SPD, Non-profits, and city government.	Lack of follow-through with prosecution or social services. Followed blindly "best practices" from another city.
RICO prosecutions 2011-2019	Strong deterrence and incapacitation of top violent offenders by imprisoning gang and associated individuals' heads.	US DOJ	US Attorney's Office and SPD.	lower-level members filled the vacuum. loosened the gang and associated individuals's authority structures and norm

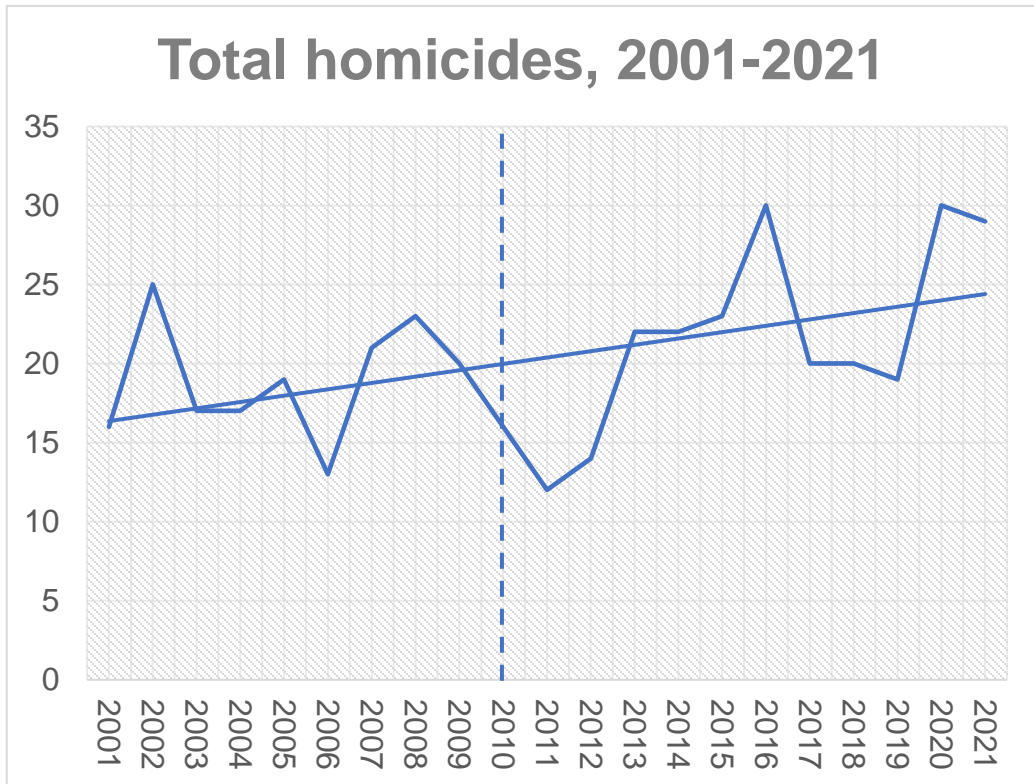
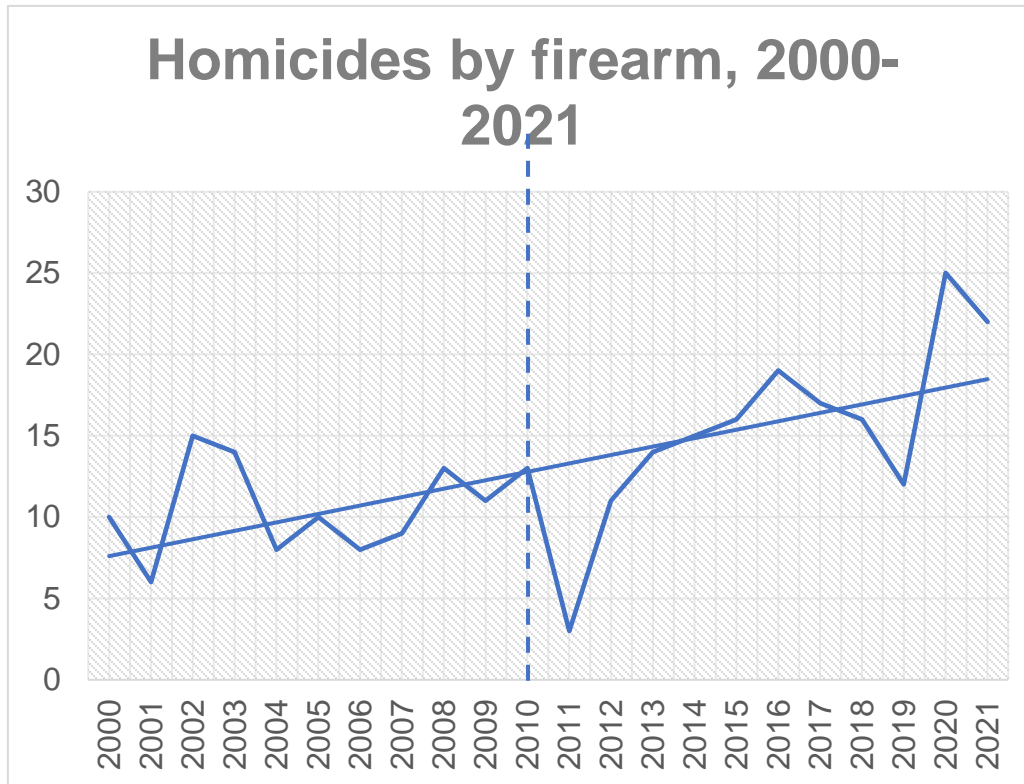
What has been done to solve this issue?

Intervention	What is it?	Funded by	Implemented by	Issues
SPD Services and proactive policies	Investigation, patrolling, and emergency calls. 26 proactive data-driven programs. Among them: Perp Stat, Gun and drug conspiracy inv., POP actions.	City government.	SPD	Despite this, the average number of homicides has grown, particularly in the last 2 years.
SNUG 2014-present	Interrupting potential conflicts, identifying and treating individuals at the highest risk, and mobilizing the community to change norms	New York Department of Criminal Justice Services.	Syracuse Community Connections	It is unclear: 1. Clients' treatment and progress. 2. Methodology for interrupting conflict. 3. Community understanding of their work.

What has been done to solve this issue?

Intervention	What is it?	Funded by	Implemented by	Issues
<p>Community Violence Initiatives (CVIs):</p> <p>2010-Present</p>	<p>Leverage credibility to approach at-risk individuals, victims, and their families.</p> <p>Interrupting violence, treating at-risk individuals, service access, advocating, and skills building.</p>	<p>Diverse sources, among them: school district, philanthropy, and the county and city.</p>	<p>Not-for-profit organizations led by respected community members.</p>	<p>Despite their clients' low recidivism rates, violence levels were higher on average in the last decade.</p> <p>Several service gaps. These will be explored further.</p>
<p>GIVE:</p> <p>2014-present</p>	<p>Applying principles of problem-oriented policing to diagnose gun violence problems and use evidence-based policies selected by the State</p>	<p>NYDCJS</p>	<p>SPD, the District Attorney's Office, the Onondaga Sheriff's Department, and the Onondaga Probation Department.</p>	<p>Homicides decreased from 2016 to 2019.</p> <p>However, in 2020, gun homicides grew by 108% and stayed at high levels.</p>

Despite these interventions, homicide went up



A blue ribbon graphic with a folded end on the left side, containing the text "Consequences and costs" in white. The ribbon is a solid blue color and has a 3D effect with a darker blue shadow on the left side.

Consequences and costs

Consequences:

- **Trauma:** A high portion of violence cluster neighbors show signs of PTSD.
- **Education:** Pupils from elementary schools in Syracuse areas with high levels of violence have 50% lower standardized test scores for ELA and math.
- **Economic:** Gun homicide surges reduce the growth rate of new retail and service establishments by 4 percent. They also slow home value appreciation by 3.9 percent.
- **Tax revenues:** If Syracuse could return to 20 homicides annually, it would have \$369,389 extra in tax revenues.



Costs

	Homicide	Aggravated Assault
Tangible	\$1,002,409	\$11,824.77.
Intangible	\$11,474,101.81	\$129,152.28
Criminal Career	\$201,911.30	\$2,889.59
Criminal Justice	\$533,272	\$11,744

Tangible: loss of life, injuries, medical expenses, cash losses, property theft or damage, and lost earnings.

Intangible: pain, suffering, trauma, and the risk of homicide (in the case of aggravated assault).

Criminal career: criminals do not engage in activities that contribute to gross domestic product (GDP) nor are not a part of the workforce when imprisoned.

Criminal Justice: Salaries, logistics, facilities maintenance, and care, among others.

In that sense, Syracuse has lost four and a half billion dollars because of violent crime in the last ten years. Which represents 10.4% of its annual GDP.